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PETER H. B. FRELINGHUYSEN  
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

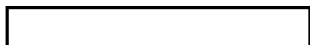
KENT B. CRANE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

December 17, 1974

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Office of the Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

Dear John:

This COG internal draft on the clandestine services may interest you and Bill Nelson. I will cause it to be re-written, one way or another, but I must admit dealing with the ideologs at COG is getting to be a bit of a bore.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent".

Kent B. Crane

cc: Mr. William Nelson (w/attachment)

1. *Approved*  
2. *who gave? what needed?*  
November 5, 1974

The Honorable Robert D. Murphy  
Chairman of the Board  
Corning Glass International  
717 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Last week Fisher Howe indicated that I should finalize arrangements for a briefing by CIA on clandestine activity. However, before I had an opportunity to draft an appropriately detailed letter from you to Mr. Colby, Mr. Howe sent a brief letter off in Dr. Wilcox's name. It seems likely that Mr. Colby will wish to obtain a confirmation and elaboration of the Commission's precise interests on this sensitive topic from you directly.

Thus, it would be helpful to all concerned if you could delineate the subjects which Commissioners wish a briefing on. In my initial discussions I have indicated that the following would be of interest:

- (a) Clandestine collection--with special emphasis on the difficult Bloc targets.
- (b) Covert action--including a definition of that term; some examples of the type of operations covered under that rubric; how risks are balanced against potential gains in planning such operations; and how political control is exerted over CA.
- (c) DDO organization--a case should probably be made for the current organizational structure to counter suggestions in other papers that clandestine activity be separated from CIA.

Given the obvious security implications involved, CIA would prefer to provide oral briefings to the Commissioners on the same basis that sensitive subjects are presented to PFIAB. I suggest that the Commissioners first discuss the two CA studies prepared by [ ] and STATINTL

Ambassador Belcher which are unclassified and can be circulated in advance of the meeting. It might be useful to invite a CIA representative to listen in on the Commissioners' review of these unclassified papers with their authors. Then, if you wish the Commissioners to receive a really extensive CIA briefing, I suggest that the room be cleared of supernumeraries and staffers with no previous precise knowledge of covert action and no current need-to-know.

This proposed procedure has been discussed at CIA and with Admiral Anderson at PFIAB, and while they obviously are in no position to take the initiative, there is general concurrence that I (as a former DDO operations officer and the person expected to draft preliminary Commission recommendations on intelligence) can provide any staff support necessary during the briefing. I might add that if other non-Commissioners are not excused, the content of the briefing will simply be adjusted accordingly.

With the next meeting of the Commission's Intelligence Subcommittee, the so-called "Phase II" of the intelligence study plan begins. Under the terms of the agreed study plan, I have been given the coordinating responsibility for "Phase II" activities of the Commission. In numerous oral conversations with the Commission staff "Phase II" has been represented to mean all activities which occur after the preparation and distribution of the "Phase I" studies done by the group under William Harris and by J. J. Hitchcock.

In broad brush terms, I intend to do two basic things during "Phase II." First, I plan to arrange for classified briefings for Commissioners by members of the intelligence community, PFIAB and/or Members of Congress with a special interest in intelligence matters. These briefings will in no way conflict with the independent, unclassified studies being prepared by Bill Harris, and I am confident you will find that Bill Harris firmly believes that such briefings will supplement his reports in an important way. Second, I expect to prepare the first draft of recommendations on intelligence matters for Commission review and possible approval. I shall of course welcome the assistance of other members of the Commission staff in this work, but earnestly hope that the still blurred lines of authority among the staff can soon be straightened out, not only because the current situation is personally embarrassing to me, but also because it is causing some legitimate concern to my friends in the intelligence community who are responsible for providing support to the Commission in this very sensitive field.

In this latter regard, if you would care to check, I believe you will find that I have the confidence of the DCI. Given my long years of

association with the Agency in various capacities, I think it is safe to say that they are willing to discuss the most sensitive sort of matters with me without fear that I will in any way abuse their trust and confidence. I have recently met with Admiral George Anderson and believe he, too, shares that view. By the time the Commission next meets, I shall have reestablished my previous close and congenial working relationships with NSA and DOD intelligence elements. Thus, I respectfully recommend, and I know that Congressman Frelinghuysen joins me in this proposal, that I be permitted to exercise my responsibilities under the terms of our agreed study plan and with your full support.

Sincerely,

Kent B. Crane  
Administrative Assistant

bcc:

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